

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

11 CFR Parts 100, 102, 104, 106, 110 and 114

[Notice 1997—10]

Prohibited and Excessive Contributions; "Soft Money"

AGENCY: Federal Election Commission.

ACTION: Rulemaking petitions: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: On May 20, 1997, the Commission received a Petition for Rulemaking from five Members of Congress urging the Commission "to modify its rules to help end or at least significantly lessen the influence of soft money." On June 5, 1997, the Commission received a Petition for Rulemaking from President Bill Clinton asking the Commission to "ban soft money" and "adopt new rules requiring that candidates for federal office and national parties be permitted to raise and spend only "hard dollars." These petitions are available for inspection in the Commission's Public Records Office.

DATES: Statements in support of or in opposition to the petitions must be filed on or before July 18, 1997.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, and must be submitted in either written or electronic form. Written comments should be sent to the Federal Election Commission, 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20463. Faxed comments should be sent to (202) 219-3923, with printed copy follow up. Electronic mail comments should be sent to softmoney@fec.gov, and should include the full name, electronic mail address and postal service address of the commenter. Additional information on electronic submission is provided below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, or Paul Sanford, Staff Attorney, 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463, (202) 219-3690 or (800) 424-9530.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 20, 1997, the Commission received a Petition for Rulemaking from five members of the United States House of Representatives. This petition urges the Commission "to modify its rules to help end or at least significantly lessen the influence of soft money." On June 5, 1997, the Commission received a second Petition for Rulemaking relating to soft money, this one submitted by President Bill Clinton. President Clinton's petition asks the Commission to "ban soft money" and "adopt new rules requiring that candidates for federal office and national parties be permitted to raise and spend only "hard dollars." Generally, the term "soft money" refers to funds that are prohibited under the Federal Election Campaign Act, 2 U.S.C. 431 *et seq.* ["FECA"], either because they come from a prohibited source, see 2 U.S.C. 441b, 441c and 441e, or because the amount exceeds the contribution limits in 2 U.S.C. 441a. Conversely, the term "hard dollars" refers to funds that are permissible under the FECA because they come from permissible sources and do not exceed applicable contribution limits.

Because both petitions relate to soft money and also seek similar Commission action, the Commission has decided to address the petitions in a single proceeding. The first stage of that proceeding is to announce the availability of the petitions for public comment.

Copies of the petitions are available for public inspection in the Commission's Public Records Office, 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20463, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Copies of the petitions can also be obtained at any time of the day and week from the Commission's home page at www.fec.gov, or from the Commission's FlashFAX service. To obtain copies of the petitions from FlashFAX, dial (202) 501-3413 and follow the FlashFAX service instructions. Request document # 230 to receive both petitions.

All statements in support of or in opposition to the petitions should be addressed to Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, and must be submitted in either written or electronic form. Written comments should be sent to the Commission's postal service address: Federal Election Commission,

999 E Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20463. Faxed comments should be sent to (202) 219-3923. Commenters submitting faxed comments should also submit a printed copy to the Commission's postal service address to ensure legibility. Comments may also be sent by electronic mail to softmoney@fec.gov. Commenters sending comments by electronic mail should include their full name, electronic mail address and postal service address within the text of their comments. All comments, regardless of form, must be submitted by July 18, 1997.

Consideration of the merits of these petitions will be deferred until the close of the comment period. If the Commission decides that one or both petitions has merit, it may begin a rulemaking proceeding. Any subsequent action taken by the Commission will be announced in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: June 13, 1997.

John Warren McGarry,

Chairman, Federal Election Commission.

[FR Doc. 97-15940 Filed 6-17-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 95-NM-200-AD]

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Industrie Model A300-600 Series Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes the superseding of an existing airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to all Airbus Industrie Model A300-600 series airplanes, that currently requires inspections to detect cracks in the center spar sealing angles adjacent to the pylon rear attachment and in the adjacent butt strap and skin panel, and corrections of discrepancies. That AD was prompted by reports of cracking in the vertical web of the center spar sealing angles of the wing. This action would require that the initial inspections be accomplished at reduced